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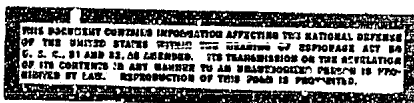
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TESTS ON NEW CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL IN BULGARIA

The Central Testing Institute at the Ministry of Construction and Roads has completed extensive tests on the utilization of a new construction material called trass.

Trass is actually volcanic tuff, that is, volcanic ashes which have hardened in the course of time. It can be used in construction work as a stone, but is not very durable.

The importance of trass lies in its ability to set under water when mixed with mortar, whereas, ordinary mortar is unable to do so. For this reason, trass is a unique building material for hydraulic construction. The addition of trass to cement creates a new kind of cement called "puzonal," which is also resistant to the action of water. The admixture of trass to cement makes the latter cheaper and also lowers construction costs.

The utilization of trass in hydraulic construction is most highly developed in the USSR. Of particular importance to the Soviet economy is the Karadag trass found near Feodosiya, which serves as a basis for the production of "puzonal" in the Novorossiysk cement plants.

In 1949, a great deposit of trass tuff was discovered in Bulgaria. This deposit has not yet been completely investigated, but such geological investigations as have already been carried out have established the fact that the deposit will suffice for domestic needs for years to come. The experiments of the Central Testing Institute at the Ministry of Construction and Roads have demonstrated that Bulgarian trass has many good qualities and that it can be used extensively in the construction industry, particularly in the construction of canals, dams, etc.

The use of trass will improve the quality of many construction operations and will also markedly lower the cost of construction. Trass is a natural product requiring only mechanical processing, that is, grinding, and hence is very

- 1 -

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inexpensive. In many cases it will be used as a partial substitute for mortar, which is much more expensive, and the production of which requires great quantities of coal.

At the moment, trass still is not very popular among builders in Bulgaria. However, benefiting from Soviet experience, its use is to be expanded tremendously, and it will contribute to the improvement of the gigantic socialist construction projects and a reduction in their cost.

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- 2 -

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